

Symbolic Racism 2000

What does this SSW measure address?

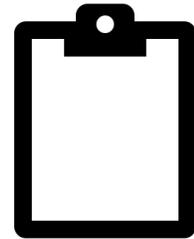
Symbolic racism against African Americans.

For use with:

School Personnel--adults of all races)

SYMBOLIC RACISM:

Can also be called symbolic prejudice or racial resentment. It is a belief system that endorses the following: racial discrimination is no longer a serious obstacle to the success of people of color; disadvantages are due to unwillingness to take responsibility; and any anger felt or demands for special treatment or attention are unjustified.



Themes reflected in the scale:

Work ethic & responsibility for outcomes

Excessive demands

Denial of continuing discrimination

Undeserved advantage

Why is it important?

Symbolic racism toward African American students may manifest as explicit or implicit messages or behaviors that undermine students' sense of belonging, belief they are being treated fairly, and perceptions of teacher support. It may also lead to disproportionate discipline and special education referrals. Use as a follow up to risk-level scores on microthreats, teacher support, school climate, school safety, and school belonging.

Scoring:

Scores will range from 8 to 31 with higher scores meaning more symbolic racism.

1. Five of the items need to be reverse coded so that the total score represents negative attitudes.
 - a. Items 1, 2, 4, and 8 need to be recoded so that a=4, b=3, c=2, and d=1.
 - b. Item 3 needs to be re-coded so that a=3, b=1, and c=2.
2. Create a total score by summing responses to the 8 questions.

What do researchers say about the quality of the scale?

The authors state that the scale is reliable, coherent, and valid in that it can discriminate between people who have beliefs aligned with racism versus older forms of political conservatism. It is able to predict the policy preferences of White people better than their political predispositions and traditional racial attitudes.

Source: Henry, P. J., & Sears, D. O. (2002). The symbolic racism 2000 scale. *Political Psychology*, 23, 253-283. Retrieved from, <https://www.midss.org/content/symbolic-racism-2000-scale>

If you have questions about how to use these scales, contact Natasha K. Bowen at bowen.355@osu.edu

MEASURES FOR PRACTICE

Social Attitudes Scale

Please read each of the following statements and circle the number of your response.

1. It's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as whites.
 1. Strongly agree
 2. Somewhat agree
 3. Somewhat disagree
 4. Strongly disagree
2. Irish, Italian, Jewish and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same.
 1. Strongly agree
 2. Somewhat agree
 3. Somewhat disagree
 4. Strongly disagree
3. Some say that black leaders have been trying to push too fast. Others feel that they haven't pushed fast enough. What do you think?
 1. Trying to push very much too fast
 2. Going too slowly
 3. Moving at about the right speed
4. How much of the racial tension that exists in the United States today do you think blacks are responsible for creating?
 1. All of it
 2. Most
 3. Some
 4. Not much at all
5. How much discrimination against blacks do you feel there is in the United States today, limiting their chances to get ahead?
 1. All of it
 2. Most
 3. Some
 4. Not much at all
6. Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.
 1. Strongly agree
 2. Somewhat agree
 3. Somewhat disagree
 4. Strongly disagree
7. Over the past few years, blacks have gotten less than they deserve.
 1. Strongly agree
 2. Somewhat agree
 3. Somewhat disagree
 4. Strongly disagree
8. Over the past few years, blacks have gotten more economically than they deserve.
 - a. Strongly agree
 - b. Somewhat agree
 - c. Somewhat disagree
 - d. Strongly disagree